



RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS' PARTY * WWW.ICWPREDFLAG.ORG



BRASILIA, BRAZIL, June 30— The city of Brasilia was completely paralyzed by workers in the second general strike of the year against cut-backs and unemployment under Temer's government. We call on the working class in Brazil to organize for Communism. Let's eliminate those guilty of the crisis with communist revolution!

Break the Never-Ending Cycle of Racist Cop Murders

CHARLEENA PROTESTS CALL ON US TO MOBILIZE FOR COMMUNISM

SEATTLE, USA, June 27— The Town Hall overflowed with furious, frustrated people. Workers and students of all races, sexes and ages came to voice their outrage at the racist murder of Charleena Lyles, but the anger of older black women stood out. Many had lost children, friends or other relatives to police killings. Some had been in the struggle against racist police terror for decades—to no avail. Communism will put an end to this frustrating cycle of racist cop killings.

Angry Seattleites filled a University of Washington lecture hall built to seat 800. They filled the seats, the hallways and an overflow room, culminating a week of nearly daily protests that involved thousands. As expected, the Mayor and the Police Chief were no-shows.

Charleena Lyles, a 30-year old black woman, was shot dead in front of three of her four children. She had called the cops because she thought someone was breaking into her house. Instead of helping her, they killed her because she had a knife.

The crowd was in no mood to be placated. "Every City Council has failed to make the police accountable," said a woman speaker, dismissing the nice words of the city council members in the panel at the head of the meeting.

"Fix the system. We are dying. We are burying our children," said another, receiving heartfelt agreement from the crowd.

Many speakers voiced the general frustration. They did not want to ever have to be back for the same reason: another cop murder.

"But they will be [coming back again]!" said a party friend at Boeing after receiving a report of the meeting.

Bitter experience has taught him, as it has many at the meeting and demonstrations, that cops are essential for building terror in the working class, especially among workers and youth of color. Civilian oversight

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Factory Workers Declare:

"WE WILL FREE OURSELVES FROM WAGE SLAVERY"

EL SALVADOR—In a recent meeting with women and men workers from the maquilas to analyze the communist political situation inside the factories, the following comments emerged:

"At the beginning of the year, we workers who must work for set goals carried out a strike and we didn't produce until they clarified how the wage increase would function. The repression and threats were harsh and in the end only Party members who work in these production modules continued on strike. But the bosses saw our decision to fight as communists and they gave in.

"We do not think for the moment that this will change the system, but it gives strength and confidence to the men and women workers that in the future we can make a communist revolution, confidence that has been lost in the union leaders and electoral parties who negotiate with the bosses. This battle makes us identify ourselves with the workers at MTA in the US who we have read about in our communist newspaper Red Flag, who have good discussions about the need for a political strike for communism.

"After this modest struggle, some of the workers who are already identified by the supervisors as members of ICWP and who remained together at the work table have been separated—to keep us from planning anything. But we think that with this they have given us more opportunity to come in contact with more workers in other production modules. Our communist struggle is advancing. We have undertaken small struggles, including stopping production in some areas," said a male communist leader who works in one of these factories.

"The bosses do not comply with what was agreed in the labor contract of the factories, nor will they comply," said a woman worker, referring to what is happening in these days after the wage increase in the maquila factories.

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North Korea Missile Test:**FIGHTS AMONG CAPITALISTS SHARPEN CLASS STRUGGLE,
CREATE POTENTIAL FOR REAL COMMUNISM**

"I always like your paper," said a bus operator in Los Angeles. "Can you write something about North Korea? Everyone here is talking about it."

Western mass media often hold up North Korea (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) to show how terrible communism is supposed to be. But North Korea is not communist.

If it were communist, it wouldn't have a money-based economy. The masses would not work for wages (currently about \$5-11 per day) in Korea, nor in China (where 94,000 North Koreans work now). If North Korea were communist, the masses would be organized to exercise power directly. There would be no hereditary "Supreme Leader" (Kim Jong-un).

The capitalist website *Investopedia* (2015) calls North Korea an "unreformed, isolated, tightly controlled, dictatorial command economy." Capitalists condemn the lack of freedom for the individual in a controlled economy. However, they never speak about the advantages of the state's ability to direct resources to identified needs.

Individual capitalists and corporations control most of the resources in what they describe as "free societies." Also, through strategic use of their wealth, they control government at all levels. In these societies, there is no responsibility for the controllers of the wealth to consider the masses in their decisions. Thus, they allow hunger and homelessness to exist in the midst of great wealth.

During the Korean War (1950-53) North Korea was reduced to rubble by the incessant bombing of the US and its allies. Since then there has been amazing progress in construction of housing and the development of industry- but in a capitalist direction.

The government provides free homes, mostly in modern high-rises. But top officials get the desirable lower units. Most workers end up on upper floors with unreliable electricity and therefore unreliable elevators.

In a real communist society, nobody will get special privileges. Each will receive according to need. And we wouldn't build high-rises without functioning elevators!

Private home ownership is technically illegal in North Korea. But the money economy fosters bribery. Informal "real estate agents" with gov-

ernment ties get huge commissions for securing prime units for wealthy customers. Amidst a housing construction boom, capitalists are speculating in this quasi-private property.

From the mid-1950s through the 1970s, North Korea rapidly rebuilt and expanded its industrial base. This was state capitalism on the Soviet Russian model, not communism. As elsewhere, it continues to sharpen class contradictions.

The working class is increasingly desperate and hungry. But wealthy people in the capital, Pyongyang, wear western business attire while shopping in well-stocked stores. Government officials (party cadres) form a tightly interconnected hereditary ruling class. Their children become the new cadres. They marry only within their class. Non-party workers are expected to bow to party cadres.

How could this be in a communist country? It couldn't! So the North Korean rulers invented a new nationalist, authoritarian ideology (Juche) to replace Marxism-Leninism. Like Khrushchev's revisionism, it rejected class struggle and promoted "defending the fatherland." By 2009 Korean rulers weren't talking about communism at all.

**North Korea Missile Test Exposes Isolation
of US Imperialism in Asia**

Meanwhile, North Korea has escaped the fate of countries like Libya and Iraq that tried unsuccessfully to appease the US. Its strategy was the development of nuclear weapons and missiles as a deterrent to US aggression.

The North Korean rulers chose July 4th to launch a long-range missile capable of reaching Alaska. What's their goal? How will US rulers respond? Are they ready to risk war with North Korea — and China too? (see below)

North Korean rulers know that if they launched a weaponized missile against the US, US bombs could reduce the country to radioactive rubble. Their latest test was probably meant to further isolate the US in east Asia. They may hope to negotiate for US forces to stand down in the region. All US imperialist analysts admit that the US has no good response.

The North Korean weapons program also attempts to build national pride so as to deflect the



growing anger of the masses. One Korean expert, Jae-Jean Suh, wrote that "in the event of a major catastrophe in North Korea, the families of the party cadres and security authorities, as well as the elite of the core class, would likely be the first to flee the country.

"If North Korea were to wage war, the barrels of North Korean guns might just as likely turn around, that is, the people might very well take aim at the cadres themselves."

Capitalists everywhere, whether national or imperialist, face the same dilemma. As they compete with each other, and especially when their rivalry bursts into open warfare, their mortal enemy is the working class.

Capitalism's ruthless exploitation and brutal repression are reason enough to mobilize for communism. The mass murder and destruction of their wars make communist revolution more necessary and more urgent.

When you talk about North Korea, think about this. And talk to your co-workers, fellow soldiers, classmates, family and friends about joining and building the International Communist Workers' Party.

CAPITALISM-IMPERIALISM MEANS WAR... READY OR NOT

"Trump could literally tweet us into a nuclear war" over North Korea, warned Korea expert Laura Rosenberger in the *Washington Post*.

But it's a mistake to blame the danger on Trump — or on his North Korean counterpart Kim Jong Un. The true cause is the sharpening and unavoidable conflict between two imperialist powers: a declining US and a rising China.

Former President Obama and his Secretary of State Clinton had a "Pivot to Asia-Pacific" policy. It included the Trans-Pacific Partnership

trade agreement, now dead in the water. Meanwhile Chinese economic influence in the region grows. In 2015, for example, China and North Korea expanded shipping routes and high-speed rail lines between the two countries, and created a border trade zone.

Obama also increased troop deployments and other military activities in Asia-Pacific. These included naval patrols, joint military exercises and close surveillance of China. He strengthened military cooperation with allies such as

Japan, South Korea and Singapore.

China continues to expand and modernize its military, especially its naval and air forces. These forces are nearly all concentrated in Asia-Pacific, unlike US forces which are spread worldwide. China's huge population enables it to field a massive army.

The strategic and resource-rich Korean peninsula has long been a focus of great-power conflicts. Japan occupied Korea after the 1905 Russo-Japanese war. It invested heavily in build-

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South Africa Youth Collective COMMITTS TO MOBILIZE INDUSTRIAL WORKERS

Five comrades have just come from an auto factory to mobilize the workers there for communism. It's good because industrial workers like them form a huge and key part of the movement. So we really need to visit these workers more often.

We went to distribute *Red Flag*. We distributed 150 papers, which was good. There are a lot of people there who need to know about ICWP. We have to make another visit so that we can explain everything because today some of the workers were rushing into work and the others were rushing home from work.

"I will share this important experience today with my comrades in my neighborhood who couldn't come," a comrade said.

It was a good thing that today we went to industrial workers because we usually go to malls, and to the students, and other mobilizations of people. So it was a good thing to now focus on industrial workers.

It's been two or three years since we went to this factory. We need industrial workers in the Party; they face the sharpening contradictions of wage slavery everyday. We hope in the future we will be able to build a cell there in order to mobilize the masses for communism and recruit them to the party.

We targeted a shift change. As a collective, we decided, as our last report stated, that we want to concentrate our efforts in the area where we went today because there are many industrial workers there and also many colleges. We plan to concentrate there for at least three months. Then we will evaluate our progress. Building a communist collective inside the factory would be a big step for the whole party.

As we distributed the paper there, we gave the paper to a white guy. He was a bit older, maybe in his 60's. He said, "What's this?"

We said, "It's a communist newspaper."

He said, "No, I don't like you guys. You are socialists. You want to take our pensions and stuff and give them to the government."

A comrade shot back, "No, you mistake us for socialists. I'll show you that we are not socialists. We stand with the workers. We don't believe there should be a group of people with privilege who control the wealth the masses produce." The worker ended up taking the paper.

As he held the paper, he saw that in this issue there was an article about Brazil. He asked, "Why do we have to be concerned about the people in Brazil when we have our own problems here in South Africa?" We didn't have time to answer because he was rushing in to work. But it was good that he took the paper.

It was the first time that some of the comrades had mobilized at a factory and not at a school or some other place. We will continue to mobilize for communism at this factory and other factories, and try to get workers' contact information, so that more industrial workers join ICWP and mobilize for communism.



MTA:

CONTRACTS AND COMMUNISM

LOS ANGELES, US—Work contracts between the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) and the various unions representing drivers, mechanics, and others are being decided on.

On Saturday, July 8, about 300 drivers participated in a meeting to approve the contract that offered a few improvements to the previous contract. A group of ICWP members came with a banner, signs, and *Red Flag*. Some 140 newspapers were distributed to those who came to the meeting.

On Tuesday, July 11, it was the mechanics' turn. They discussed the proposed contracts and it appeared there wasn't much opposition to what many workers consider a decent contract. Relatively few members attended these meetings.

On Wednesday, July 12, a group of comrades and friends of ICWP inside MTA were more interested in discussing communist politics than the details of the contracts. However, they discussed some details as well as what's happening outside in daily life.

A comrade gave the opinion there won't be any need for contracts in communism because there won't be any labor power bought or sold. We workers will have our needs secured to live well, and health benefits, like any other necessity, will be supplied to all.

One worker mentioned Trump's recent threats to North Korea and the imminent danger of a world war. (see page 2)

We ended the meeting by handing out seven copies of our manifesto, *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*, for later discussion so we can better understand the role of the Party as the leader of the working class. That is important because our struggle is not to secure crumbs for a few hundred workers, but to secure the lives of billions worldwide under a communist system.

This photo of a strike of Ford workers in Pretoria, South Africa, in August, 2013, reminds us of the militant history of industrial workers in South Africa.



Capitalism-Imperialism Means War..from page 2

building North Korea's heavy-industrial economic base. In 1988, about 60% of North Korea's trade was with the SU. After the collapse of the SU, China stepped in. Today China provides North Korea with most of its food and energy. Over 90% of North Korea's trade is now with China.

That is, he didn't want to go to war over it – nor does Japan or South Korea.

With Japan's defeat in 1945, the Soviet and US rulers divided "North" from "South" Korea. The start of the Cold War made peaceful reunification impossible. Separate governments were organized in 1948.

Two years later, Russian-backed North Korean troops crossed the border, trying to reunify Korea. The Korean war (1950-53) drew in Chinese troops. But US and South Korean troops flattened North Korea and re-established the border, which remains highly militarized.

The Soviet Union (SU) became North Korea's main ally and trading partner. It was key to re-

The Chinese rulers don't want war in North Korea. They don't want North Korean nuclear weapons to become an excuse for a US military attack. They want stability and a buffer-zone between China and South-Korean-based US forces. They fear that instability (refugees or class struggle) could spread to China itself.

Obama's policy regarding North Korea's nuclear-weapons program was "strategic patience."

There are many possible flash-points for a US-China conflict that could explode into a nuclear World War III. North Korea is not the likeliest. However, few would have predicted that the assassination of an Austrian arch-duke would trigger World War I – even the communists who saw imperialist war on the horizon.

Capitalists and imperialists worldwide rightly fear that "instability" and war create opportunities for workers' revolution. Those opportunities already exist. Let's take advantage of them to mobilize the masses for communism.

Deadly Fire in El Salvador's Ministry of Finance

BURN CAPITALISM, BUILD COMMUNISM

On July 7, one of the three buildings of the Ministry of Finance in El Salvador burned down during work hours. In the last edition of *Red Flag* we wrote about the fire in the Grenfell apartments in London, showing this was a capitalist attack against the lives of the working class. Now we see workers in El Salvador in the similar situation in a different context. With the “left” in the government, the life of the workers continues being in danger, including those who work in state offices.

The fire started on the fourth floor, then continued to floors five, six and seven. This caused people to move to the higher floors until they reached the roof. Desperation, caused by the smoke and the speed with which the fire spread throughout the building, made a young man decide to jump to save his life. He survived. Eighteen people were burned; one of them is in serious

condition and one woman worker died. This was the final toll of victims.

These events are common in capitalist societies. In Bangladesh, London, or El Salvador, the working class suffers the consequences of a system that does not value human life. However, this event has the characteristic of happening under a government that is supposedly on the left, a government that has no intention and will not be able to resolve the contradictions of capitalism because the government itself is capitalist.

The statements of the president and the rest of the leadership only refer to an electrical failure and emphasize that no documents were lost. “I don’t think that this is a crime or terrorism. It has been an electrical problem,” Minister Cáceres told the press.

Isn’t the lack of an infrastructure that guarantees the lives of the workers the fault of those

burned, 1200 people work. None of the three buildings has emergency stairs, in spite of the fact that the workers asked for them in 2009, at the beginning of the first fmln government.

The fmln cannot and will not ensure a better life for the working class. Their reformist line is far removed even from the failed efforts of socialism in the last century and in the first decades of the present one. Not even the “radicalization of this process” can put an end to capitalism.

The working class organized in its communist party will be able to carry out a revolution that eliminates wages, the market, and production for profit, and organizes the communist economy that meets workers’ needs, which will vary depending on the historical context in which we find ourselves. In this way, the workers, with the organization of the Party, can ensure that every worksite will be safe.

Organizing for communism is becoming more important every day. The failed processes of socialism, now in the 21st Century, show us that to guarantee the integrity of all of our class, it is necessary to eliminate the material basis of capitalism. This is not an easy task; it is a process that requires all our effort. The masses have always aspired to stop living in a system that attacks our lives in so many ways. Let’s have confidence in them! Let’s advance towards Communism.



San Salvador, May Day, 2017
Mobilize the Masses for Communism

MAQUILAS from page 1

“We are harassed daily by the supervisors, with threats that if we don’t meet the production goal they will close the factory, and that we will be out of work. This makes many fearful but others of us have lost our fear,” said a male worker.

“The exploiters fix things so that they don’t lose their profits. They always find a way to squeeze us workers. We have to organize more women and men workers into the International

Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP). We need a strong base fighting for communism. That’s the only way we will free ourselves from wage slavery,” another leading comrade, a woman, said.

“The reform struggles that have been carried out in this country, although some have been very militant, have always ended up calling for the reinstatement of workers who were fired as a result of the struggles,” said a male worker.

These discussions reflect the process of ideological struggle to understand the contradiction

that reforms don’t lead to communist revolution, and we are carrying out this struggle in meetings, study groups and the distribution of Red Flag.

Our goal is to sharpen the political struggle and win more workers to read and distribute our newspaper and to join ICWP. We are clear that we are fighting for communism, a system without money, without classes, and that we are going to produce based on what humanity needs. No more exploiting bosses. We have nothing to lose. We have a communist world to win.

CHARLEENA from page 1

committees, federal consent degrees and court trials (that some called for) won’t change this. That is what the cops are paid to do: protect and serve the bosses.

If we don’t want to come back year after year, month after month, to protest yet another racist cop killing, we need to mobilize for communism. That’s what our comrades advocated at the biggest demonstration and the Town Hall. That’s the message hundreds received in our leaflet (icwpredflag.org/wp/wordpress/?s=lyles) and *Red Flag*.

In communism, the party will regularly organize mass meetings at workplaces and in neighborhoods so that workers will have an active role in all decisions that affect their lives.

We would organize an entirely different kind of “Town Hall” to respond to racist murder. We would not have a meeting meant to allow people to vent their frustration and then carry out an oppressor-led investigation organized by the cops for months or years.

First, we would not have a police force, hence no racist cop murders. However, we will have mass meetings to deal with any heinous, racist acts. They will be held at worksites, learning centers and everywhere workers and youth congregate. The facts will be presented, but most of all these meetings will be dedicated to mobilizing masses to make sure we don’t have to come back yet again. Workers and students will leave these meetings with a plan (that they worked out) to stop the racists dead in their tracks.

All this will be possible because communism will eliminate the material basis for racism. As our leaflet said:

“Only communism can end racism (and with it racist police terror) first by abolishing money, private property, and the wage system. Everyone will work col-



lectively to supply everyone’s needs on an equal basis. Resources (raw materials, labor) will be allocated based on workers’ needs, not profit. Without wages, there will be no such thing as cheap labor. No exploitation, and therefore no racist super-exploitation. No ruling class, no borders, no wars and no racist cops.”

To end police terror and racism, we need millions of people to be mobilized for communism. We need a communist revolution. If we learned anything from the past week’s meeting and demonstrations, it is that the frustration and anger of the masses opens the door to just such a mobilization.

Some chant for real justice for Charleena. That will never happen under capitalism, but we can end the system that murdered her. Join the ICWP and help us end racist police terror for good.



Fighting Fascism in Health Care

COMMUNISM WILL VALUE ALL LIVES

LOS ANGELES (US), July 3— “The Senate bill calling for huge cuts in medical insurance is fascism in action,” said a comrade to a municipal worker at one of many protests against the efforts by Congress to gut health care in the United States. “The cuts in Medicaid in particular—which target people with disabilities—will kill thousands of people every year. It’s like how Nazi Germany sent people with disabilities—they called them ‘useless eaters’ to the gas chambers along with Jews, Roma people (‘Gypsies’) and Communists.”

“One more way that Trump’s a fascist,” answered the worker. “Attacking Muslims, immigrants, Jews, you name it. Suppressing the vote, attacking the courts and the free press. His justice department is giving the green light to the police murder of black men [like me]. We’ve got to stop him.”

“It’s not just Trump,” said the comrade. “Fascism is capitalism in crisis. The bosses have the President they need to institute the fascist cuts they need. And they literally don’t care how many people die to maintain their profits. We must get rid of capitalism and build a communist society.

“Capitalism is based on using human beings to make a profit,” continued the comrade. “They discard workers when they are no longer a source of profits. Hence these murderous cuts in health care. Communism is based on working together—each according to their ability and commitment—to fulfill the needs of human beings.”

This started a long discussion. The comrade and the municipal worker exchanged phone numbers. Our new friend promised to read this issue of *Red Flag*, and the comrade promised to call him in a few days to continue the discussion.

Everyone Has Contributions to Make

Protesters with disabilities risked arrest on June 22 to protest against Trumpcare’s massive cuts to Medicaid. In effect, they were protesting the fact that capitalism makes a commodity of human life. If your disabilities keep the capitalists from making maximum profit off your labor, this system sees your life as without value.

In contrast, communism values the lives of everyone. When communists lead the masses to take power, we will immediately eliminate money, commodity production, and wages. People will no longer be forced to compete in the job market to sell their labor power.

We are learning the lessons of War Communism during the Russian Revolution and the Supply System in the Chinese Revolution. We will organize society around production and distribution of the necessities of life: food, shelter, clothing, medical care and education for everyone. Of course we will also produce the weapons we’ll need to defend and extend the revolution.

Production for need, without any kind of wage system, will require organizing social life in a much more collective way. The Party will lead the struggle for everyone to increase their commitment to the society, and to contribute all they can. People will differ in their commitment. But as we struggle to build communist relations, more people will join the Party, and we’ll learn to give our all.

Obviously, that “all” differs from one person to the next. As we build stronger social ties, we will learn to appreciate the different contributions of people who are differently abled. When we eliminate production for profit, we won’t look at each other in terms of “productivity,” “efficiency,” or “expertise.” Instead we’ll build social relationships of consideration and respect. Working together to meet the needs of society, we will be able to see how everyone can contribute. Meaningful, useful work is also a human need!



US Healthcare System: CAPITALIST HEALTH CARE GOES FROM BAD TO WORSE

Some may be surprised that the US has the worst healthcare system in the industrialized world. The current system, the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare), is not a national health system. It does not guarantee universal coverage. (See RF icwpredflag.org/wp/wordpress/volume-7-number-20/worried-about-attacks-on-obamacare/)

Even in countries with national health systems, capitalism always provides a two-tier health system. There is minimum care for the masses and better options for those who can afford them. With the current economic crisis, that minimum level of care has gone down drastically.

In the US, the attacks on health care are being debated in Congress as we go to press.

The main provisions of the current bill:

- *22 million people will lose their medical insurance.

- *Medicaid will be cut by \$880 billion over ten years—a 25% cut

- *The rich, drug companies, and other companies that make a profit from health care will get a tax cut of \$1 trillion over that same ten years.

The harshest cuts are to Medicaid. This program began in 1965 during the Civil Rights movement. It covers half of non-elderly people with disabilities—almost 13 million people, including more than 2 million children. It provides medical coverage, long-term services and the support that helps people with disabilities live at home instead of an institution.



June 22— Disability advocates give leadership to movement against US health care cuts. They staged a ‘die in’ outside Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell’s office to protest the Senate health care plan and proposed cuts to Medicaid which would cause thousands of deaths and threaten the ability of millions to live at home.



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South Africa ANC Conference

WORKERS NEED COMMUNISM

The ruling class in South Africa is fighting with each other over who gets to exploit the working class now and in the future.

Last weekend marked the African National Congress' (ANC) policy conference where they discussed the party's way forward. It was marked by their internal fighting about who gets to be next President, and the so-called state capture by the Gupta family.

Most people are living in poverty; they cannot even manage to get their basic human needs met. Most of them tend to blame Zuma or the ruling ANC as the source of the problem. But the real problem is capitalism, which needs to be overthrown by workers' revolutions worldwide.

Even if the ANC was not in power, we would still be in the same position we are in as long as capitalism and its apologists exist. South African workers and the masses as a whole suffer the same problems as other workers around the world, from India, the USA, El Salvador, Mexico, etc. And these countries do not have Zuma

or the ANC as the ruling class but they all have capitalism as the economic system.

Capitalist political parties are not going to improve anyone's life except their own and the masters they serve. Voting and siding with them is suicidal to say the least.

Hence we do not need them. Workers need themselves. They need a party that fights to meet their needs where they determine what those needs are, a party that will free them from being wage slaves. Workers need themselves to abolish capitalism, which enslaves them. The workers and the masses do not need anyone that will not abolish capitalism. The working class does not need a world where they work for somebody else so that he or she can profit from workers' hard work.

Certainly in South Africa we do not need the ANC with its opportunist rhetoric about the so-called "Radical Economic Transformation" or the need to fight "White Monopoly Capital." We need to fight every capitalist, regardless of their

skin color.

Certainly we do not need the so-called opposition parties who keep making noise about the capture of the government by the "Rich guy," when in fact even they themselves are financed and backed by the "Rich Guy."

The fact is that these electoral parties are all on one side: the one that is opposite and against the working class. They all side with the rich, ruling minority. They all advocate the exploitation of the masses by the rich (capitalists). These parties are only fighting to control more. As their economic system fails, they are all trying to grab as much as they can get. They are stealing the value we produce and our very lives.

We do not need them. In fact we need to destroy them and their capitalist system.

We invite workers here in South Africa and all over the world to join ICWP and struggle for a better future free of exploitation, a communist world where sharing and cooperation are the order of the day.

LETTERS

LETTERS

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CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

Bolshevik Women: Revolutionary Communist Leaders

The El Salvador article in the last *Red Flag* makes an important point. Too often we think that "leadership" means chairing meetings, giving speeches, writing pamphlets. These are tasks that men (especially male intellectuals) are more likely to have been trained to take on. Too often we don't see the important work done by women (and lesser-known men) as real leadership.

For example, Lenin is described as "the leader" of the 1917 Bolshevik revolution, while his communist wife Krupskaja "helped" him. She did a lot more than that.

While in exile, Krupskaja received visiting comrades, established connections, gave instructions. She decoded incoming letters, read them and answered them in code. She memorized comrades' aliases and addresses and managed Party finances.

In 1917, Krupskaja chose to become an organizer in the critical Vyborg working-class district of Petrograd. She worked mainly with youth and women, and was elected to the Vyborg дума (council).

Lenin's sister Anna joined the Party in 1898 and helped publish underground Bolshevik newspapers. Their sister Mariia organized circles of railway workers. During World War I she trained as a nurse so she could go organize soldiers at the front. Meanwhile she kept "safe houses" and organized meetings with visiting comrades.

Vera Slutskaja, daughter of a skilled worker, organized women in Vyborg, where she gave leadership on a local level. She was killed defending the October Revolution as the Bolsheviks took power.

Petronelia Zinchenko worked on the docks, in the fields and in the factories. She joined the party in 1917, organized sailors and women workers in Kronstadt, and served on the Kronstadt Soviet.

E. Alekseeva started working in a textile factory at age 10 and became a Bolshevik at 14. She took part in strikes, distributed Party literature, collected money and got fired. She found work in a metal factory and started organizing there.

After the revolution, Alekseeva (like many other Bolshevik women) worked as a party cadre. Yet her official Soviet biography de-

scribed the "high point" of her life as serving as lookout and making tea at the October meeting that planned the insurrection!

There were literally hundreds of these Bolshevik women. They, and many men who did similar work, are described as "rank-and-file Bolsheviks." But they were the ones who mobilized the masses. They were real leaders.

So, while it's important to support and encourage women to give speeches and so forth, the fight against sexism within our movement shouldn't be focused on getting communist women to be more like men. We must learn to recognize, respect and learn from the leadership that women (as well as men) already give.

We must fight the idea that only a "select few" are "real leaders." Hundreds, thousands, millions of workers and youth can and must become communist leaders.

—Red History Student

Lunchroom Conversation

Once again, my co-worker and I were watching the news during lunch time when the news broke about something else Donald Trump had said regarding his travel ban.

"It's all bullsh*t," José said. "He's against us—you know—blacks and browns. All he wants to do is take care of the whites."

José and I are always the ones who spark political conversations or even turn to the news, mostly because of everyone's understandable distaste for Trump's policies and latest attention-grabbing antics.

I quickly interjected and said, "But there are

poor whites as well as rich blacks and Latinos," which made him and the other workers in the lunch room start to pay attention.

"What you mean, Demetrius?" José said to me when I started to explain that separating people by race has always been on the capitalist agenda and it's only worsened (if you can say that) with the election of Donald Trump.

"There are poor whites who have fears like us, living in poverty. We're all just working day in and day out to make ends meet," I said, which made José start to nod his head.

"Yeah, but whites are what got him into office!" answered José.

This led me to explain that the two years of building up propaganda and fear in white workers about immigrants and competition for jobs in this capitalist society are what helped him win.

José seemed to understand what I was saying but just couldn't seem to stop asking questions regarding why he is still in office when he's offending so many people.

After a little more back and forth over race, I asked him if he would like to read *Red Flag*, which helps give me a better understanding of how capitalism works, and he agreed.

"I can't wait to read it," José said with excitement. And I can't wait for the conversation that we are eventually going to have after he reads it.

—Young Industrial Worker



Bolshevik women give leadership in The October 1917 Revolution

LETTERS

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Give the People What They Want

While sitting on a city park bench, I recently spoke to a young woman who was passing out information on an upcoming Christian evangelical meeting. She wished to invite me to the meeting. However, I politely declined as I am not a believer. The young woman persisted and began to tell me of the joys and benefits of being a Christian. She insisted that the church is the only way to lift myself out of loneliness, financial stress, and unfulfilled goals. In her view, I should also continuously give thanks to her god for allowing me to live each day.

I informed the woman that I am not lonely; that my finances are not a particular stressor at present; and that I have indeed fulfilled most of my personal life goals. She asked me how that could be true given that I was all alone on a park bench, my clothes were simple and worn, and I am not in touch with her god anyway. I said that I, for one, do not need a god to live fully by my own standards. I added that I do not live in fear of dying tomorrow, as I live fully each day. None of my perspective mattered to the young woman. In her view, I must be an unhappy person so that her god can save me!

The communist view is similarly challenged in its claim of working for the liberation of the masses. There are certain truths that undermine communisms' effectiveness in tackling the real difficulties of organizing really massive societies populated by different peoples. The communist movement appears to want to preserve the ideas of its early thinkers. Yet psychologically/mentally impactful experiences in individuals and sociopolitical happenings continually transform these big societies. What may have worked even a short half-century ago is not necessarily practical or relevant in the present day.

For example, communism starts from the view that citizens of the world are suffering under capitalist oppression and social maladjustment. The solution to this is the communist revolution. But what of the majority non-Western peoples on whom this system would be imposed? How does a communist convince them to adopt yet another Western social philosophy when these have historically proven to really only serve a few people in the West?

Before and through the 20th century, the world has suffered numerous struggles against colonialism/racism, social injustice and human rights violations. In addition, the Western hegemony's emphasis on individualism has meant that societies have changed dramatically within living memory. Today many people agree that true freedom means self-determination. Each adult human must be assumed to know and must be allowed to act according to her own best interests – even to her own detriment. That is what freedom means!

—a reader



Trump supporters and anti-Trump protestors. Residents who came out of their houses and motorists driving by wanted to know what was going on.

Comrades explained the situation to them as we offered them *Red Flag*. Mostly everyone was angry at the racists and willingly took the paper. We explained to them that the ICWP is fighting for communism.: a world in which we workers do not have to live in fear of deportations because we won't be forced to flee from one place to another in search of a better life. Wherever we live we will live in a communist manner; no money, no borders and no capitalist government.

At one point a small group of young people were shouting obscenities at the racist-fascists. We approached them and said that the only way to stop these racist-fascists was with organized violence of youth and workers. What we need is to organize for communist revolution so that once and for all we can do away with these racist-fascists. All of these youth also took *Red Flag*.

All together we distributed well over two hundred *Red Flag* newspapers, mainly to residents and motorists. Many expressed gratitude for us being there. We are planning to bring this issue of *Red Flag* to the neighborhood soon.

CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

Mobilize the People for Communism

“Communism starts with a view that citizens of the world are suffering under capitalist oppression and social maladjustment. The solution to this is communist revolution.”

Indeed, the majority of the citizens of the world are suffering. Unless the victims of this suffering can stand up and fight the perpetrators of such ills (capitalist or capitalism), their suffering will never stop no matter how many reforms we try or even by mother of all reform, i.e. socialism.

Yes, communism assumes that the only way that we can be liberated is through communist revolution by the working class and after such revolution establish communism. Communism is a system where production is for the whole society. Everyone will contribute based on how much he/she can according to one's ability. No one will be privileged. This is not automatic. It needs a struggle.

It is true that most of the world is influenced by what is historically regarded as western thought. It is only partly true that communism is a western philosophy. Even though many influential communist writers come from the West, some of its principles have non-western elements.

A comrade said, “I was born here in South Africa in a village where people lived in some collective way. The village under the king provided land to everyone or every family to build houses and grow crops mostly maize, beans, sugar canes and butternuts etc. Not everyone or family had cows and a plough but everyone's farm would be ploughed by strong cows and men of the village.

“To plough was mostly a men's job. Women's work was to care of the young crops and guard against weeds for a sustained period of time until they could grow smoothly. During the harvest time, women (mostly with children) would harvest. Men would transport the products to the village by cows so that it could be shared amongst the village according to one's farm.

“This collective system of living was not perfect. It was sexist at times and had some privileged individuals, like the King and his close relatives.”

To an extent this was fulfilling because most of the time the needs of the people were met. They had healthy food to eat, water to drink and less health care problems. This shows that a collective way of living is fulfilling to most of the people.

Yes, some people may want to revert back to such systems or to similar ways of living. But a communist goal is break the limits of such pre-capitalist systems, to achieve a way of living that is even better.

—Comrades in South Africa



Comrade in South Africa replacing his “House of Prayer” poster with an ICWP poster organizing for May Day, 2017

Taking on the fascists in Southeast Los Angeles County

CUDAHY, U.S. —Liberal mayors across the U.S. have declared their cities to be “Sanctuary Cities.” Such cities would limit their cooperation with the national government's efforts to enforce racist immigration laws.

Tiny Cudahy is such a city. Trump supporters showed up at the regular city council meeting demanding that the city change its status. Before the meeting, shouting matches erupted outside between



HAMBURG GERMANY, July 7: Thousands of people take to the streets for major anti-capitalist protest march during #G20 summit in Germany. Hundreds of thousands around the world are fed up with capitalism, its wars, racism, exploitation and destruction of the environment. In spite of the sign “GAME OVER CAPITALISM” above, the game won't be over, however, until we mobilize the masses for communism.

US CAPITALISTS CREATE RIGHT-WING CHRISTIANITY TO SUPPORT THEIR RULE (PART I)

“I got the evangelicals,” bragged Donald Trump in September, 2016. This was only partly true. Some members of this US Christian movement were denouncing Trump for racism, sexism and religious intolerance. Trump was actually bragging that he had the support of the Christian Right. This religious political movement has existed for many decades in the US and is always important for Republican politicians.

US capitalists have made use of Christian rightists to give capitalism and US nationalism a religious basis. At various times, Christian rightists have organized support for the Cold War, the Vietnam war, Israel, bigger military spending, and racial segregation—not just in the South. They have opposed social welfare legislation, access to abortion, legal rights for gays and lesbians, and action on climate change.

This article will discuss some of the ideology of the Christian Right. It will summarize ways the US ruling class has promoted that movement.

Evangelicals

Evangelicals believe that each person must personally decide to accept Jesus. They often promote mass religious revivals that try to persuade people to convert. Many evangelicals claim that the Bible is literally true, and argue seriously about the meaning of biblical texts. The Christian Right is one arm of evangelical Christianity. There are only a small number of leftist evangelicals.

Several revival movements took place in the 1800s. But the ones that set the pattern for later revivals were led by Dwight Moody in the 1870s. Later, when US industry was growing rapidly, Moody’s revivals were financed by the biggest US manufacturers, railroad bosses and bankers, including Cyrus McCormick, head of McCormick Reaper in Chicago. These bosses hoped

that religion would hold workers back from class war and communism. McCormick’s company was a target of the mass movement for the eight-hour day that led to a big strike in 1886. This strike established May Day as an international day for workers’ struggle.

Conflict Among Protestants

US Protestants have always been divided by race and class. About the time of World War I, there was also a major doctrinal split among US Protestants. So-called fundamentalists rejected modern scientific discoveries like the origin of humans by natural selection. They insisted that the Bible is true in every detail. They usually rejected social reform and tried to stand apart from the corruptions of society. Some of the more liberal Churches allowed less literal interpretations of the Bible. They preached a “Social Gospel” that included opposition to poverty and sympathy for the working class.

One of the disagreements in this split was about how to interpret Biblical prophecies. One view said that at any time Jesus could come back and take all Christians directly to heaven (“the Rapture”), leaving non-believers behind to suffer under the tyranny of an “Anti-Christ.” Eventually Jesus would come back and defeat the Anti-Christ. The millennium, 1000 years of peace and harmony, would follow. An opposite view claimed that humans would bring about the millennium themselves and Jesus would come back at the end of it.



Charlottesville, Virginia, July 8—Workers confront the Christian Fascist Ku Klux Klan

This disagreement was and is taken very seriously by evangelicals. Those who believe the first view see struggle for a better life as futile. Just wait for Jesus. The second view is more optimistic and makes reform worthwhile.

The split in US Protestantism changed form over the years, but it hasn’t gone away. The Christian Right is closely connected to fundamentalist wing, which still tries to prevent teaching evolution. Although some evangelicals are concerned about climate change, those who are waiting for the Rapture are not likely to worry about the future of the Earth. It’s all up to God.

Next article: *How US capitalists formed and promoted right-wing Christianity*

US Vice President Mike Pence: “What the American people need is not more health care. What we need is more Jesus care. People who live Godly lives don’t worry about doctors. We have The Lord to take care of us.”
See “Fighting Fascism in Health Care,” page 5

LEARN FROM THE BOLSHEVIK REVOLUTION IN RUSSIA!

This Fall marks the 100th anniversary of the 1917 communist-led revolution in Russia (October 25 Old Style/November 7 New Style). This was a monumental event in the history of our class and our movement. We have so much to learn from its successes, its shortcomings, and its fatal errors.

We call on all collectives of the International Communist Workers’ Party, and all **Red Flag** readers, to organize study groups, dinners, public forums, rallies and other events to promote the broadest and deepest possible understanding of the Bolshevik Revolution.

Let’s inspire masses to join and strengthen our communist work among workers, youth, and especially among soldiers and sailors! Let’s use this history to grasp more firmly the meaning and power of our slogan “Mobilize the Masses for Communism!”

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

*Read and discuss the *Red Flag* articles about the Russian Revolution and the ICWP manifesto ***Mobilize the Masses for Communism*** (available at icwpredflag.org).

*Write letters or articles for **Red Flag** about your discussions or your questions.

*Plan events at your school, workplace, or neighborhood.

*Watch for our “recommended reading” lists – available soon.

*Join and build the International Communist Workers’ Party

All Power to the International Working Class! Fight for Communism!

